

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 083018  
ORIGIN DLOS-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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APPROVED BY:ALAN BERLIND  
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UNCLAS STATE 083018

FOR LOS DEL

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM PORT MORESBY DATED MARCH 29,  
1978 SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO CANBERRA, JAKARTA, SUVA,  
TOKYO, WELLINGTON, CINCPAC, HICOMTERPACIS IS REPEATED  
TO YOU: QUOTE

UNCLAS PORT MORESBY 0438

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

TOKYO FOR RFO

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PLOS, EFIS, PP  
SUBJECT: PAPUA NEW GUINEA DECLARES 200 MILE FISHERIES  
JURISDICTION

1. SUMMARY: GPNG HAS ANNOUNCED THAT ON MARCH 31 IT WILL EXTEND  
ITS TERRITORIAL SEA FROM THREE TO TWELVE MILES AND ITS  
FISHING JURISDICTION TO 200 MILES. A PROCLAMATION  
DELIMITING THE EXTENDED FISHING ZONE ALSO WILL  
BE MADE AND WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE MARCH 31. REGULATIONS  
WILL SOON BE ISSUED REGARDING LICENSING CONDITIONS AND  
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FEES. END SUMMARY:

2. DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY  
CHAN AND ACTING FONMIN MOMIS ANNOUNCED MARCH 28 THAT PNG'S  
200 MILE FISHING JURISDICTION WOULD COME INTO OPERATION  
ON MARCH 31. JURISDICTION WILL BE EXTENDED BY  
BRINGING INTO FORCE THE NATIONAL SEAS ACT, 1977, AND

1977 AMENDMENTS TO THE FISHERIES ACT. A PROCLAMATION  
DELIMITING THE BOUNDARY OF THE NEW FISHING ZONE, WHICH  
BORDERS INDONESIA, AUSTRALIA, TTPI AND THE SOLOMONS, WILL  
ALSO COME INTO OPERATION MARCH 31.

3. ON MARCH 31 PAPUA NEW GUINEA WILL EXTEND ITS TERRITORIAL  
SEA FROM THREE TO TWELVE MILES.

4. RULES FOR FISHING IN NEW 200 MILE ZONE WOULD BE SIMILAR  
TO THOSE APPLIED IN EXISTING TWELVE MILE FISHING ZONE.  
NO VESSEL WILL BE ALLOWED TO FISH COMMERCIALLY WITHOUT  
LICENSE ISSUED BY MINISTER FOR PRIMARY INDUSTRY. REGULATIONS  
UNDER THE FISHERIES ACT WILL BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE A NEW  
SCALE OF FEES FOR VESSELS TAKING FISH IN THE 200 MILE ZONE  
AND NOT LANDING THEM IN PNG. GNERALLY, A CONDITION OF THE  
LICENSES OF SUCH VESSELS WILL BE THAT THEY CHECK INTO A  
PNG PORT FOR INSPECTION OF CATCH. THE MINISTERS ADDED,  
"WHERE ARRANGEMENTS HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT  
BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS OR COMPANIES...CERTAIN FOREIGN VESSELS  
OR CLASSES OF VESSELS MIGHT BE EXEMPTED FROM THIS REQUIREMENT  
AND AN ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF LEVYING CHARGES COULD BE  
ADOPTED."

5. THE GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES THAT POLICING THE EXTENDED  
ZONE WILL STRAIN RESOURCES. WAYS OF IMPROVING THAT  
CAPABILITY ARE BEING EXAMINED. AS A GENERAL RULE, IT  
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WAS ANNOUNCED, ILLEGAL FISHERS WILL NOT BE WARNED, THEY  
WILL BE PROSECUTED.

6. THE MINISTERS ALSO STATED THAT THE FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE  
MEASURES WOULD BE OPERATIVE ON MARCH 31.  
A) EXISTING LICENSES FOR FISHING IN THE OLD 12 MILE ZONE  
WOULD REMAIN VALID FOR FISHING IN THE 200 MILES FOR THEIR  
PERIOD OF ORIGINAL VALIDITY.  
B) ENFORCEMENT ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN AGAINST ANY UNLICENSED  
FOREIGN VESSEL FISHING WITHIN THE 12 MILE LIMIT OR TAKING  
SEDENTARY (SEABED) SPECIES ANYWHERE IN THE AREA OF THE  
OFFSHORE SEAS.  
C) IN RESPECT OF OTHER AREAS, FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS WILL  
BE ALLOWED A PERIOD OF GRACE UNTIL 30TH APRIL, 1978, DURING  
WHICH THEY MUST APPLY FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA LICENSES WHICH,  
IF ISSUED, WILL BE SUBJECT TO NEW CONDITIONS.  
D) AFTER THE GRACE PERIOD, ENFORCEMENT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN  
AGAINST ALL FOREIGN FISHING VESSELS WHICH HAS NOT LODGED  
APPLICATIONS FOR PAPUA NEW GUINEA LICENSES.  
E) WHERE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN NEGOTIATED WITH THE GOVERN-  
MENT OF ANOTHER COUNTRY IN RESPECT OF ITS FISHING VESSELS,  
EXEMPTIONS FROM SOME OF THE GENERAL CONDITIONS MIGHT BE

GIVEN IN RESPECT OF THOSE VESSELS, AND THE AGREED ARRANGEMENTS WOULD APPLY.

F) IN CERTAIN BOUNDARY AREAS, WHERE NEGOTIATIONS WITH A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY ARE IN PROGRESS, SPECIAL PROCEDURES WOULD APPLY FOR AN INTERIM PERIOD IN RESPECT OF THE VESSELS OF THAT OTHER COUNTRY. THIS PARTICULARLY APPLIED TO AUSTRALIAN VESSELS IN THE TORRES STRAIT AREA, IN RESPECT OF WHICH AREA BOUNDARY NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONTINUING.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FISHERIES, TERRITORIAL WATERS, TWO HUNDRED MILE LIMIT, TWELVE MILE LIMIT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 31 mar 1978  
**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Message ID:** 325181bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN DLOS  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** PAPUA NEW GUINEA DECLARES 200 MILE FISHERIES JURISDICTION  
**TAGS:** PLOS, EFIS, PP  
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**Type:** TE  
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